

PARISH ACTION PLAN

Adopted 7th July 2022

This update prepared prior to the Annual Village Meeting on 21 April 2023

1. **To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan with update of the Village Design Statement** – this project was re-launched last summer and is in progress, awaiting the transfer of the clerk to the post of deputy clerk on 1 June 2023, when she will become responsible for the admin. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on 26 June 2023
2. **To provide extra speed signs on A259** – as discussed in 2022, speed reactive signs have been installed in Gilberts Drive. However, the second phase of the project to install more signs on the A259 cannot proceed as East Sussex Highways having surveyed the area concluded that there were no suitable sites. Attention is now focused on campaigning for lower speed limits in the parish; reporting noisy bikes and speeding motorists to Operation Crackdown; and pressing for a Public Spaces Protection Order to be imposed by Wealden District council on the Birling Gap Road
3. **Defibrillators** – the parish council took over the stock of seven defibrillators previously owned by the East Dean Responders in November 2019. One was gifted to the Beachy Head Chaplaincy team, and the others are now all installed in key locations spread across the parish.
4. **To launch social media communications** – this was first proposed in 2018 and a policy was drafted but did not proceed. The General Data Protection Regulations were introduced and the council waited to see the effects of these changes. It is now possible to re-launch this project with a new Lead Member (Councillor Milligan) who has relevant expertise. No budget is required.
5. **To campaign for adequate mobile phone signals** (and in the interim to campaign for electronic bus stop signs, as bus company mobile apps do not work in the village) – unfortunately there has been no success to report. The two topics are linked and mobile phone signals remain inadequate. Perhaps it is time for another go at Telefonika. and indeed not everyone feels that Regarding electronic bus stop signs, it has to be said that not everyone would welcome them as appropriate in a rural area.
6. **Post office** – a new proposal made at the Annual Village Meeting 2022 was that the council should request visits from the mobile post office as it appears that permanent premises cannot be found. The Post Office was contacted, and said their Network Development team did not currently have a nearby mobile operation in the area which would be able incorporate a stop in the East Dean and Friston area, with the nearest mobile van over 50 miles away. They said: *'In recent time the Post Office has undertaken a comprehensive review of the branch network to ensure that it continues to meet evolving customer needs in a very challenging economic and retail climate. This review examined the branch network at a detailed, geographical level, analysing customer demand and accessibility of Post Office products and services. It has formed our plans for the network as we work to ensure that our funding and resources are allocated to deliver maximum benefit for all customers. I understand the importance of Post Office services in communities such as East Dean*

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and Friston and I am sorry I cannot send a more favourable reply currently, but I can reassure you that we continually review our branch network, and should the current situation change we will update you and our customers in the local area.' The Chair of the council wrote to Maria Caulfield MP to ask whether she might be able to exert some influence over the Post Office decision. The response was that the best hope for the parish would be to find local premises that would be willing to host a post office. **Might this now happen at Sheppards Village Stores?**

7. To provide disabled access to the cricket pavilion – it is good to be able to report that there is now a ramp providing disabled access to the pavilion, constructed and paid for through the joint efforts of the Parish council and the Cricket Club.

8. Play area upgrade – there are currently no specific proposals.

9. Resurfacing of tennis court - a sum of £2,000 is now available in a sinking fund for this project

10. To support environmental projects within the council's powers. The following have been suggested:

- **Interpretation boards at the recreation ground** - this project has not been pursued as yet.
- **Re-wilding a portion of the Greensward** (owned by the Greensward Company) – the parish council paid a grant of £500 plus VAT for this project, which was carried out successfully last winter
- **Provision of Electric Vehicle charge points** – the council has pressed for the inclusion of charging points by Wealden District Council in the village car park which Wealden owns, and this has been approved. Connected Kerb is the contractor chosen by WDC and ESCC for rolling out the provision of EVCPs in the County and the District. Transport is the largest source of carbon emissions locally, and hence there is a drive to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles among residents. East Dean and Friston's village car park has been chosen as one of the sites to be included in the first phase of the roll-out. The criteria for inclusion are: available space; a convenient electrical supply; local eligibility for government funding; and the presence of a significant number of homes where residents can only park their cars on the street so cannot provide their own charging points. East Dean qualifies on all counts. The initial provision will be at least three charge points fed by 'node boxes' which sit securely underground, and may include some passive supply points for future expansion. The public facing 'Gecko' units above ground will be easily replaceable for upgrading at some future date. All power will come from renewable supplies. It is intended that installation will begin in February or March 2023 and will take one or two months to complete. It will be open to parishes to 'piggyback' on these works and get the same contractor to work on additional sites, but this would be under a separate contract and done at the parish's own cost. The cost of using the supply is currently benchmarked at 35p per kW hour but is liable to vary in line with the rest of the market. In order to use the facility, members of the public will need Radio Frequency I.D. cards (RFID) and there will be wide publicity on how to

obtain these. It is expected that in the first phase the type of charger installed will be Rapid (which actually takes a long period e.g. overnight), but there will be future upgrades to make it faster. It is likely that the chosen bays will be alongside a boundary wall where the charging posts are not likely to be knocked over. People often ask for them to be placed where several bays can access them, but this has proved problematic. Similarly, there can be a problem if people leave their cars in the bay after charging is complete (more likely to be a problem in a paying car park). There needs to be some kind of enforcement, but latitude will be allowed at first as people genuinely will not know how long they should allow for a charge to complete. Installation should be imminent.

- **Wind Turbine** – a suggestion was made at the Annual Village Meeting 2022 that the provision of a wind turbine in the parish be considered, and the council has duly investigated this. Wind turbines come in a range of sizes: the bigger the turbine the greater the energy generated, but the bigger the amount of land required, and the greater the cost. For example, a 1MW wind turbine would cost approx. £1.25 million and require at least a 2 acre site. Ofgem estimates the typical household in Britain uses **2,900 kWh** of electricity and 12,000 kWh of gas in a year, so in a parish with approx. 700 homes using an estimated 2,030,000 kWh of electricity per year in total, the 1MW turbine would power about half the parish's needs. On a more domestic scale, a single small turbine (say 1.5kW) can be installed as permitted development provided the property does not already have a wind turbine or an air source heat pump. It costs £7,000 and will supply about 2,600kWh per year. The amount of clear space around it must be equivalent to the height of the turbine plus 10%. Here is a link to the planning advice: <https://www.planningportal.co.uk/permission/common-projects/wind-turbines/planning-permission-stand-alone-wind-turbines>
- **Undertaking a parish energy survey** – this too is a proposal made at the Annual Village Meeting 2022, which has been followed up. The suggested prototype comes from the parish of Balcombe in West Sussex which has a website www.repowerbalcombe.com. The project **REPOWERBalcombe 1 Co-operative Limited** is 'an Industrial Provident Society for the benefit of the community' registered at an enterprise centre in Barrow-in-Furness. Balcombe originally hit the headlines as a place where Cuadrilla was planning to do fracking, which galvanised local people into opposition, drawing in protestors from outside the community as well, and leading to the founding of this clean energy project. Unfortunately the project ran into financial difficulties which were blamed on changes in government policy that made green enterprises more expensive to invest in. The project still exists but in a modified form and its links with any particular community have been loosened. This link to the project webpage gives information about the team of people now running it: <https://www.repowerbalcombe.com/team/>. It is not council led. It does look like the kind of project one would very much wish to see succeed, but the three kinds of input it needs are (1) the involvement of individuals who can bring technical expertise; (2) business leaders who can bring finance or management skills to the project; and (3) sites for energy projects. It is focused on providing community-owned, locally generated energy through clean, renewable technologies, and encouraging the move away from climate-changing fossil fuels. It has been running since 2013 and depends on individual initiatives by local businesses, schools and

other landowners, all striving to reach the same end. It is an excellent example and does depend on long-term local collaboration, such as the parish council might encourage but cannot require. However, some data is available to undertake a local energy survey as a starting point. The parish council will wish to support practical action by local people.

- **Local Carbon Impact Report**– following on from the above, the parish council obtained a Carbon Impact report prepared for the parish from the Centre for Sustainable Energy: The report covered two main ways of calculating carbon impact, namely:
 - household consumption - capturing all the emissions produced as a result of all the activities local residents engage in, regardless of where geographically the emissions occur, i.e. the production of the food they eat, the manufacture of their clothes and household items, the generation of fuel for heating, travel, etc.. On this measure, the parish has significantly higher consumption than the Wealden average.
 - territorial footprint – capturing all the emissions directly produced in the parish i.e. if there were a factory in the parish, its emissions would count towards the territorial footprint, regardless of where the products were actually consumed. On this measure, the parish has a relatively low footprint.

In discussion of these findings at the council meeting on 2 February 2023, it was agreed that although the evidence was based on hard data, its interpretation and use would not be straightforward. For example, emissions from personal transport in the parish were relatively high, but this was inevitable due to the location of the parish in a rural area, and one which attracted tourists. The council was already subsidising a local bus service and promoting other green transportation. Members were unanimous that the council's priority must be to keep its own house in order by making improvements within its powers. It did not have power, and would not wish to dictate to residents what they should consume in their own homes. Each household must make its own decisions. However, the report was publicly available as a resource for those who wished to use the data to guide their personal decision making. The council resolved that the Carbon Impact report for the parish be noted, and that regard be had to its data in framing future resolutions of the council

Further suggestions for addition to the Parish Action Plan are always welcome

Next Parish Council meeting – 18 May 2023

Enquiries to the Parish Clerk: email clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk ; phone 01323 811870

Office hours: 9.00am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday